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Sept. 1954
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Cover Photo

Last month when the Second Assembly of the World Council met in Evanston, Ill., Barbara Ricks, a 21-year-old Howard University student from Washington, D. C. was *the* representative of one and a half million Methodist young people in the USA.

A top student, strikingly beautiful, with a sparkling personality, Barbara was well equipped to represent her church's younger generation. Best qualification of all: she is one of the few national youth leaders who still finds time to take active part in her own local church Methodist Youth Fellowship. When she is not working with the young people of Mt. Zion Methodist in Washington (the city's oldest Methodist church), she acts as Washington Conference MYF president, Christian citizenship chairman on the council of the National Conference of Methodist Youth, and Methodist delegate to the general council of the United Christian Youth Movement, to name only a few of her titles.

For more about the World Council and Barbara see NEWS.

The CONCERN staff gives its special thanks to former editor Roger Burgess, now editorial director of the Methodist Board of Temperance in Washington, for his special coverage of the World Council Assembly. His exclusive report begins on page 3.

Concern

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Introducing - -

The new editor of CONCERN, Miss Eloise Kelly.

Tomorrow this young Methodist woman arrives in Nashville, Tenn. to sit at the editorial desk. Hers will be the task of selecting stories, editing copy, writing editorials, doing layout, and seeing each issue of CONCERN through the various stages of its production.

Eloise Kelly brings to the Nashville job several years of experience both in the church and in the field of journalism and public relations. She is a native of Indiana, a graduate of Manchester College in North Manchester, Ind., and an active churchman. She has taught youth church school classes, been counselor for a local MYF, and an adult worker at MYF summer camps. As a layman she has attended annual conference and assisted in the public relations program of the Indiana area. As a journalist, she has worked for a large Indianapolis daily paper and has been co-owner and co-editor of a small town weekly. CONCERN readers will see the touch of her editing, beginning next issue.

The present editor, Jameson Jones, now begins work on the staff of the Department of College and University Religious Life of the General Board of Education, while continuing his graduate studies at Vanderbilt University.

World Council holds big Evanston assembly

A Special Report

BY ROGER BURGESS

As this copy is being written in Evanston, Ill., the Second Assembly of the World Council of Churches has reached the half way mark and the hard work has really begun.

Until now delegates have been involved in an intense verbal and written briefing which has been in preparation for years. Reports, speeches, pageantry, have been combined to set the stage for deep and serious attention being given by sections and small groups in these middle days to the Assembly's main theme and its six-themes (below). But the quiet won't last long. By the end of the week, reports will hit the floor in a series of oratorical fireworks. Debate will be fierce at times, yet always friendly, and out of it are expected some concrete agreements and statements regarding the place of Christianity in an atomic world.

It would be impossible to report, even superficially, on all that is being said and done here in Evanston. And newspapers all over the country are carrying day by day reports on the major developments. Instead, CONCERN presents some impressions of this great Christian congregation at work, a quick glance at a few of the main issues, and a rundown on the contribution youth are making to the World Council meeting.

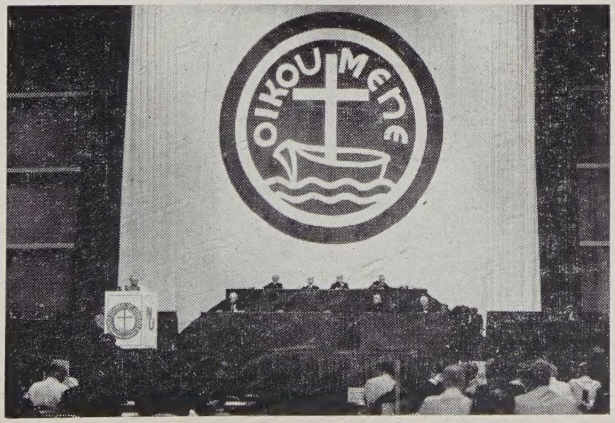
A World of Words

It would take a team of statisticians even to estimate how many words are involved in a meeting of this kind. Some 300 typewriters, 12 mimeographs, three modern collating machines and a mountain of other office equipment are being used at full speed, 'round the clock. A special switchboard set-up is already overtaxed and phone companies are stringing new mazes of wire every day.

Indicative of the importance and the size of the meeting is the attention shown by the press. Nearly every major newspaper and magazine is represented by at least one person. The press and broadcasting committee was forced to refuse accreditations by the score because there just wasn't room. At that, they have arranged to care for what has become the second largest aggregation of U.S. and foreign press representatives ever assembled. (Largest, the Eisenhower-Taft Republican convention.)

Western Union's local superintendent has announced that an average of 100,000 words of news copy are being filed per day in a 24-hour operation on a special set of 15 teleprinters set up to handle outgoing copy. On the day President Eisenhower delivered an address to the delegates, 10 more machines had to be added. Foreign correspondents alone are averaging 5,000 words daily to papers in London, Paris, Berlin, Geneva, Stockholm, Tokyo and other points.

In all, more than 600 daily and weekly newspapers, news bureaus, magazines and religious publications were



At huge desks sat the World Council's president during plenary sessions. Above their heads hung the symbol of the World Council, a fisherman's boat with the cross for a mast and the old Greek word "Oikoumene," referring to the university of the church.

represented at the August 14 press banquet hosted by Charles Parlin, Methodist layman in charge of press and broadcasting (who incidentally picked up the tab for the dinner as a personal contribution to the World Council meeting).

Because of the efforts being made by radio, TV and the press, Christians in every corner of the world are getting a day by day account of Evanston, 1954.

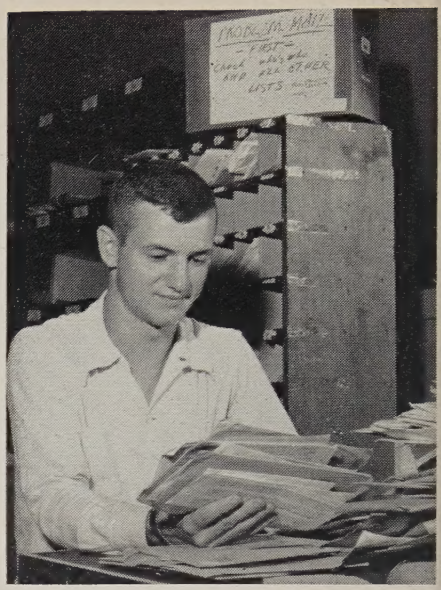
A Council of People

Evanston is a strange sight. Ordinarily the Northwestern University campus is in a late summer slumber at this time of year, but it has had little time for sleep since June. Long before August 15th, advance preparations were keeping telephones in a constant jangle and French and German conversations were as common as English. (The three are the official World Council languages and all signs, speeches and documents are translated into each.)

In the few days before the Assembly's first session, planes, trains, buses and cars poured an international conglomeration of people onto the Evanston streets. They arrived from 48 countries, representing more than 160 Protestant and Eastern Orthodox churches. In every form of dress, from non-descript baggy sacksuits to flowing scarlet robes, the delegates converged on the campus to form long, multi-colored registration lines.

In all, there are places for only 600 full voting delegates on the World Council Assembly (representing 170,000,000 Christians—notable exceptions: Roman Catholics, Christian Scientists, Missouri Synod Lutherans, Southern Baptists). Add to this total 100 youth consultants, other special consultants and a host of accredited visitors, observers, the press and tourists. The fact that certain plenary sessions of the Assembly are open to the public and the wide-spread coverage being given by the press has brought thousands of camera-carrying tourists to Northwestern, and it is wonderful. Cordial, friendly, interested, they have made an important mark with many foreign delegates.

The delegates have been shutter-happy, too. One Orthodox bishop, hurrying to a committee meeting, was halted ten times in one block by people of every color and garb to pose for a quick "hold it, please."



Ken Thompson, Yale University student and a member of the National Conference of Methodist Youth Council, served as an aide for the World Council meeting. Between sessions he and a dozen other young people helped sort tons of mail which piled into Evanston bearing postmarks from every corner of the world.

In addition to the approximately 1,500 people here officially all the time, there have been some noteworthy crowds. At the opening Festival of Faith, based on the theme, "Christ—the Hope of the World," more than 125,000 people jammed into downtown Chicago's Soldier's Field, and another 15,000 were turned away. Papers said the festival was the largest congregation of Christians ever to assemble in the U. S. The festival alone had a tremendous impact on the midwest as 125,000 people said together, "We have come to worship God!" and prayed, in spite of denominational and racial differences, with brothers from across a world, "Our Father . . ."

A Meeting of Churches

There is tremendous importance in the fact that the World Council is meeting at all (see VIEWS), but basi-

cally the Council is in session for three reasons:

1. To consider the great concerns of the Christian faith. Here the theological fireworks come in. For instance, there is wide difference of opinion as to just what the word "Hope" in the theme really means. Top theologians are plowing deep into each other's territory as they try to come to a unified definition. Two sides are represented by the more traditional belief that Christian hope is involved in the second coming of Christ, and by the more modern interpretation that places hope in what Christ does through Christians here and now.

There are also sharp theological differences involving the nature of man and his ability to shape his own destiny and to create a Christian society. Of course, each section topic (below) involves theological debates—the matter of race, for instance, coming up for intense discussion.

Many of the conflicts will not be resolved here, but it is important that Christians of varying points of view have an opportunity to thrash away at the differences, and in that debate to discover a surprisingly large number of points on which they can agree. Fundamentally, the churches represented here are "one in Christ" and, as Methodist Bishop G. Bromley Oxnam said over and over again in his opening address to the first worship session, "(They) intend to stay together."

In addition to the main theme delegates will come to some fundamental agrements on six sub-themes, probably more successfully. They each involve a detailed analysis of the Christian faith as it is interpreted by the member churches. Topics are Faith and Order: Our Unity in Christ and Our Disunity as Churches; Evangelism: the Mission of the Church to Those Outside Her Life; Social Questions: the Responsibile Society in a World Perspective; International Affairs: Christians in the Struggle for World Community; Inter-Group Relations: the Church Amid Racial and Ethnic Tensions; and the Laity: the Christian in His Vocation.

Each of the sub-themes will be given careful study and reports will be made and debated in plenary sessions.

2. The second basic purpose for the Assembly is its job as a principal policy and program making body for a world-wide organization. Since the first meeting of the World Council in Amsterdam, 1948, a large staff of people has been hard at work. For example, much of the multi-million dollar reconstruction and relief work done in the world since that time has been carried on either directly or cooperatively by the World Council. Offices in New York and Geneva house several departments including youth work, inter-church aid to refugees, etc. The Assembly will evaluate work done and set the course for the months and years ahead.

No drastic changes are seen in the youth program of the World Council which has been instrumental in establishing and maintaining a large and extremely effective series of projects, perhaps best known of which is the program of ecumenical work camps.

One change in the structure of the World Council has already been voted. Presidents of the World Council will

Three important figures at Evanston were O. Frederick Nolde, head of the Commission of the Churches on International Affairs, U. N. Secretary-General Dag Hammerskjold, both of whom addressed the assembly, and Geoffrey Fisher, Archbishop of Canterbury and a retiring WCC president.

not succeed themselves. This means that Methodist Bishop G. Bromley Oxnam will no longer be a member of the presidium after the current session. His North American successor is the Rt. Rev. Henry Knox Sherrill, presiding bishop of the Protestant Episcopal Church. The new presidents include one Methodist, Bishop Sante Uberto Barbieri of the River Plate conferences in South America.

3. Daily the delegates gather in Evanston's First Methodist Church for morning and evening prayers. There is Bible study and Holy Communion. This last is a point of question and controversy, of course. One of the most interesting statements regarding the devisive elements of separate communions, necessary because of varying church beliefs, was made by Ernest A. Payne, general secretary of the Baptist Union of Great Britain and Ireland, in a special service of preparation for Holy Communion:

"Who, with the New Testament open before him or the long and devious story of the Christian Church in mind, would dare to assert that the mind of Christ is necessarily or full expressed (regarding Communion) by either the majority or the minority in any particular Christian assembly?

"The truth is that on the question of the ordering of the Lord's Table, on the question of who should celebrate the Holy Supper and who should partake, Christians—even the Christians associated in the World Council — remain divided.

"Each must obey his own conscience, standing himself answerable to his Lord. To try to force the conscience of another is wrong as it is fruitless. Even to hint at such a thing as we approach this sacred service would be an act of sacrilege."

This same spirit has p r e v a i l e d throughout the Assembly whenever drastic differences came under discussion.

Service of Holy Communion was held for participants according to Methodist, Lutheran, Anglican, Orthodox and Church of South India rites, on succeeding days. Four of the five services were "open" to all delegates, and delegates were invited to "attend" the Orthodox observance, although participation was limited.

They Counsel With Youth

It is a fact that youth have had a more active part in the Evanston Assembly of the World Council of Churches that at any other time in the history of adult ecumenical meetings. The Student Christian Movement, the World's Student Christian Federation, the United Christian Youth Movement, the Union of Latin American Evangelical Youth, and three World Conferences of Christ Youth (the last in Travancore, India) are proof enough of the importance young people have played in bringing the churches closer together. But at Evanston, for the first time, youth consultants are taking part in debate and discussion with all the privileges of delegates except the right their meetings were separate from the to vote. At the Amsterdam Assembly contribution to make to the total group adult groups, and if they had any it had to be sent in the form of a "message."

Methodist youth delegate from the U. S. is vivacious Barbara Ricks of Washington, D. C. (see cover) who is here as a full consultant, taking part in each plenary session and serving on committees which are discussing the main theme, social questions, etc. She has full right to express her opinion in all of these, and already has.

Barbara probably knows as much about the ecumenical movement as any Methodist young person could. As a delegate to the general council of the United Christian Youth Movement she got her first taste of churches in cooperation, worked hard as a Methodist representative. Since a spring phone call from Methodist Youth Department director Harold Ewing announced to her that she was "it" for the World Council Assembly, she has been studying everything she could get her hands on as background information.

With the 99 other youth consultants (82 from foreign countries), she spent a week at Lake Forest College north of Evanston, getting ready for participation in the big meeting. There she met and talked with other young people from member churches around the world, heard key World Council leaders explain problems that would be coming up, and met and talked with youth leaders from the WCC staff including Jean Fraser, director of the

WCC youth department; Bengt-Thure Molander, youth secretary in Germany; Heinrich Rohrbach, co-secretary in the Geneva work camp office; Frances Maeda, youth secretary in New York; and Wilmina Rowland, youth secretary for the World Council of Christian Education.

During the Lake Forest meeting Roderick French, chairman of the general council of the UCYM (youth arm of the National Council of Churches USA) presented a "Welcome Book" to the youth consultants. It was a bound list of signatures, gathered from the young people of America, each of whom had given one dollar toward travel and living expenses of the youth consultants from other lands. Total check accompanying the book was more than $3,500.

According to one World Council leader, Barbara Ricks has been in the center of things since she joined the consultants group, active in discussion and eager to decipher the reams of theological talk that she reads and hears. Of course it is not all that difficult—some of the issues are clearly drawn, the church's attitude toward race, for one. Here Barbara's contribution has been an interesting one.

"We are very grateful," said one World Council spokesman, "that the Methodist youth have sent Barbara to represent them. You have no idea how important it has been to some of the other young consultants to see that the one delegate chosen to represent so large a number of U. S. youth, comes from what they had heard was a persecuted minority."

There are other Methodist young people at Evanston as consultants. Briefly, here's a run-down on them:

In a key position as chairman of the youth department is Phillip Potter, a tall, attractive young pastor from the West Indies. It now seems clear that he will be asked to join the WCC's youth department staff at the close of the Assembly and will be unanimously confirmed to that post. Deeply intellectual, with a magnetic personality, he is one of the most important youth figures at the Assembly. He has been asked to join the post-Evanston team which will visit a number of U. S. cities to tell the story of what happened here. He served as a delegate to the Second World Conference of Christian Youth in Oslo in 1947 and was a member of the youth delegation to the Amsterdam Assembly of the WCC. Last year he made a special trip on WCC youth work to Angola, Sierre Leone, Nigeria, Liberia and the Gold Coast.

Elia Peter is a graduate of Madras Christian College in India and is director of youth work for the Methodist Church of Southeast Asia. He was a delegate to the Third World Conference of Christian Youth in India in 1952.

Milton Martin is a Union Theological student, doing seminary work in the U. S. but a representative of the Methodist churches in South Africa.

Barbara Welch is an attractive representative of Methodist youth in Australia. She is proficient in speech, dramatics, music and art, and by vocation is a teacher.

Nester Gordillo Martinez from Buenos Aires, Argentina, is executive secretary of the Union of Latin American Evangelical Youth (ULAJE) and has been active in the Accion Argentina, an organization dedicated to pro-

Posters, printed materials and art work from over the world went into a huge pictorial display of WCC activities. Modern in concept, it gave youth and adults (including cover-girl Ricks) a quick, concise picture of what the WCC is trying to accomplish.

tect democracy and freedom from totalitarian pressures.

Beryl Underhill is representing Methodist youth of Britain. She has had extensive educational training in the U.S. and is currently traveling as a lecturer all over Britain under the Methodist Youth Department there.

Although he is not representing a Methodist group there is another Methodist among the consultants. He is Raymond Grant, Jr., of Westville, N. J., a fraternal delegate from the World's Alliance of YMCA's. Now studying at Yale Divinity School, he is preparing for the Methodist ministry, after changing his vocation from that of an insurance executive.

Just as it is a fact that young people are participating more fully and effectively in the Evanston meeting than in any other adult ecumenical gathering, it is a good guess that the meeting might not have happened at all if it weren't for another larger group of teenagers and college students.

Most of the work of the conference —sweeping, mimeographing, running errands, driving staff cars, etc., is being done by volunteer young people. From all around Evanston and from nearly two dozen states, aides and stewards have come to Evanston on a room and board basis, paying their own travel, just to help out. Each had to be cleared through his denominational agency before he could be accepted, and hundreds were turned away. They work long hours, sometimes most of the night, sorting mail, handing out copies of speeches, serving as ushers and doormen, and answering several dozen questions per hour. At least 75 of the group are foreign exchange students studying in the U. S. and recommended by their own denominations abroad.

Even the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts of Evanston have helped, making signs, lists of restaurants, volunteering as tour guides and even as baby sitters. A host of local young people were needed as ushers at the huge Festival of Faith, and a large number are busy every night cleaning up the vast floor space of McGaw Hall, where plenary sessions are being held.

Three important youth-student meetings are paralleling the World Council

On the day that President Eisenhower spoke a crowd of 15,000 waited for a full hour under a sweltering sun for ceremonies to begin, most of them standing for the full time. Bishop G. Bromley Oxnam gave the invocation. He prayed, "Grant us peace, O God, not only in our time but forever and forever . . ."

meeting in time and location. Of special interest to CONCERN readers is the National Conference of Methodist Youth, which met in Naperville, Ill. (see page 11). NCMY delegates visited two plenary sessions of the World Council and discussed some of the same materials in addition to their regular business.

The United Student Christian Council held a study conference in Evanston during the first week of the WCC meeting, and the World's Student Christian Federation has just begun a graduate level study conference as this is being written. Both scheduled an impressive list of speakers from among WCC leaders including Professor Hromadka of Czechoslovakia, D. T. Niles of Ceylon, and Alan Paton of Africa, author of *Cry, the Beloved Country*.

Both study conferences stress the ecumenical movement and are making careful study of the Assembly and the issues it is debating. A good share of meeting time is taken up with visits

to Assembly sessions.

One of the interesting sidelights in connection with these student conferences is to note how much of the present leadership of the World Council has come out of such groups.

Dr. W. A. Visser 't Hooft, the general secretary of the WCC was once secretary of the World's Student Christian Federation. J. Robert Nelson, secretary of the WCC's permanent commission on faith and order, was study secretary of the United Student Christian Council in this country.

Philippe Maury is the present general secretary of the WSCF and also a representative to the WCC from the Reformed Church of France. His father played a leading role in the French Student Christian Movement and in the Federation and young Maury became a member when he was 16.

Phillip Potter (above) who is now on the staff of the WCC youth department was a secretary of the Jamaica SCM and held a number of posts in national student groups and in ecumencial organizations.

This "moving up" into World Council leadership is a healthy sign, for as youth take a more active part in the organization they will be better prepared to make lasting and effective contributions later on. One thing is certain, delegates and leaders of the Second Assembly know that there is a younger generation and that at times it can be embarrasingly inquisitive, impatient and vocal; all important attributes for a seeking Christian in the time in which we live.

Youth in Action

Tone for youth participation in the Assembly and an indication of the importance the WCC gives to youth's voice was clear in the report of the youth department committee, presented on the floor of the Assembly by Phillip Potter.

"Young people are affirming the evangelistic and pastoral task of the World Council of Churches — helping young people to come to Christian conviction and to grow in the Christian faith," Potter declared. Youth have a two-fold task, he said, to:

1. Participate and be responsible for a world-wide fellowship of youth working through the World Council.

2. Enter into an alliance "with other great Christian youth movements, the YMCA, YWCA, World's Student Christian Federation, and World Council of Christian Education, in the common task of presenting the whole Gospel to youth."

The young minister reviewed the inception of the youth department following the Second World Conference of Christian Youth at Oslo in 1947. "Church youth leaders were convinced," Potter said, "that youth should form an integral part of the ecumenical movement and particularly of the World Council of Churches then in process of formation. In 1948 the First Assembly recognized what was already an accomplished fact, symbolized by the active presence of youth delegates.

"This clear mandate was a call to the churches to come to grips with a

No single speaker had moved the Assembly to more than the usual response and interest until the middle of the first week when Dr. Charles Malik of Lebanon rose to outline the problems of Asia and Africa in light of the Christian message. Ambassador from Lebanon to the United States, Lebanon's representative in the United Nations, secretary of the U. N.'s Commission on Human Rights during the formulation of the historic Declaration of Human Rights, his position as a Christian of world importance was recognized by the entire Assembly.

remarkable fact — the rapid development of youth work directly related to the churches, even during the war years."

Potter added that it was during the chaos of World War II that "youth in many lands found themselves, through their sacrificial defense of . . . values of truth and justice, and in their struggle against economic and political oppression."

Delegates were told that the youth department has fulfilled its functions in four spheres of activities: conferences, growing in Christian witness within political conflicts, work camps and world youth projects.

"We have seen that youth are committing themselves to the ecumenical movement with radical seriousness," Potter declared, "that ecumenical experience has deepened their Christian faith and widened the area of its relevance; that they are loyal, if critical, members of their own churches; and that they are, in fact, pioneering in many areas of witness for the Church."

The speaker charged that "There is still lurking among the churches a definite mistrust of ecumenically minded youth," who, he said, "are the very ones who have received a fresh and significant understanding of the Gospel and of the Church's task in the world."

"What then is implied in our conviction that 'Jesus Christ is the Hope of the World' if we hesitate to make new ventures of faith for the renewal of the Church in a creative partnership of the older and younger generations?" he asked.

"To what end are the churches associated with the WCC engaging in youth work? Towards the renewal of the whole Church for the evangelization of the world, towards the perpetuation of their own confessional positions?

"Whatever the answer may be," he concluded, "we may be assured that Christian youth, having gained a fuller vision of Christ as the hope of the world in the ecumenical movement, are not disposed to fall back in a restricting confessionalism, however strong may be their allegiance to their own denomination."

Youth were heard in many ways during the Assembly and its section meetings. Items:

◆ In a meeting called for the youth of Orthodox churches a special World Council of Orthodox Youth representing groups in America and overseas was called for, also a world-wide congress of Orthodox youth to meet at the next World Council Assembly or prior to it.

◆ Bishop J. Peter (rhymes with mater) of Hungary, one of the most controversial figures at the Assembly because he comes from an Iron Curtain country, said to a group of accredited visitors that the church in Hungary did not separate youth and women's work as is done here, but that youth were often called together for special occasions.

◆ Toyohiko Kagawa, the little Christian giant from Japan, tipped visitors off to something that happened officially two days after he predicted it. He said that the Christian youth of Japan were very much against rearmament, were asking that tests on the hydrogen bomb be ceased in their part of the world. A few days later a petition protesting the use of all nuclear weapons and signed by 33,000 Japanese youth was presented to the section on international affairs of the Assembly.

Officers of the section received the petition from a Japanese delegation headed by Dr. Michio Kozake, moderator of the United Church of Christ in Japan.

The petition urged the World Council to consider a resolution addressed to governments of all nations in order to achieve the banning of nuclear weapons, international control of atomic energy, and to exert all efforts to abolish war and establish peace.

Incidentally, the accredited visitors to the WCC Assembly had a special program outline all to themselves while delegates met in their own groups. In many ways this special program has been more exciting than the Assembly's plenary sessions because there has been time for a first hand exchange of ideas.

This special issue of CONCERN reports on two important meetings held the last of August. Next issue CONCERN returns to its regular News-Views-Cues format and features.

National Conference meets near Evanston

Naperville, Ill., is a nice little town, clean and quiet. It would be a typical small-college town, except that the busy metropolis of Chicago is only 36 miles away. Because Naperville combines the quiet beauty of a little town with nearness to Chicago, young Methodists chose it for the site of their annual National Conference of Methodist Youth.

August 20-27, some 172 youth and student leaders of the church came to the campus of North Central College for their usual summer's-end business and planning meeting. Slightly more than an hour's ride distant was Evanston, Ill., site of the Second Assembly of the World Council of Churches, which the young Methodist wanted to be near.

For five days the delegates met in two groups: the National Methodist Student Commission, composed of state MSM presidents and adult counselors; and the National Methodist Youth Fellowship Commission, composed of annual conference MYF presidents, conference directors of youth work and staff representatives. After these meetings, delegates joined in the business sessions of the National Conference of Methodist Youth, which unites the youth and student streams of the church in a democratic organization on the national level.

Among the familiar sights at many national student meetings is the charming painting of an African boy which Dorothy Nyland brought back from her round-the-world trip. Here she introduces her boy to Toyohiko Kagawa, famed world Christian who was one of the speakers at the NCMY meeting.

Youth Commission Meets

Presidents, or official representatives, of 85 of the 101 annual conferences of the church turned out a staggering amount of work in their days together. Setting their own agenda from discussions in the opening sessions on "What should be the youth program of the church" and "Where is the Youth Emphasis," the presidents settled themselves to a systematic conquering of a long agenda.

For two days the MYF leaders concentrated on the Youth Emphasis, pooling their ideas on content of the next phases of the Emphasis. From the staff of the national youth department came reports on where the Emphasis needs strengthening, what has been happening in the Emphasis across the church, and what is coming up now.

An evening set aside for the Methodist Youth Fund became one of the highlights of the commission's meeting. Staff member Emeline Crane reported on her recent six-months trip around the world to survey Youth Fund projects. Equipped with slides and an amazing story, Miss Crane sent the assembled presidents forth with a firm determination to raise Youth Fund giving in their own conferences.

In its closing sessions, the commission worked on the continuing program of the MYF. In committees and subcommittees which met during scheduled hours and often late into the night, the delegates ground out significant reports. Among other things they called for increased experimentation in volunteer work projects for high school youth, for an increased number of schools of alcohol studies on the jurisdictional and conference level, and for improvements in the program of U. N.-Washington seminars.

A report of major importance issued from the committee considering relations of the national MYF to interdenominational youth work. The report recognized that "interdenominational youth work is neither beyond nor over-and-above the youth program of

The Methodist Church, but an integral part of it." The Commission voted continued approval of the United Christian Youth Movement as the official organ for the expression of Methodist youth work in the ecumenical movement.

From the group considering the integration of minority groups came a call for increased opportunities for interracial fellowship for youth on all levels of planning. The report sanctioned the May decision of the Supreme Court outlawing segregation in public schools and sought ways of implementing the breakdown of segregation within the church.

The gavel of Robert Trost, youth commission chairman who was "on loan" from the U.S.-2 training program of the Board of Missions, guided the commission through its long and often tedious sessions. The work of the youth section was well worth the efforts of its members and leaders.

Elected to the council of the National Conference from the youth commission were Molly O'Steen, Donald Day and Marjorie Simpson as chairman of faith, outreach and fellowship, respectively.

Student Commission Meets

The National Methodist Student Commission began its annual meeting with a discussion and evaluation of the regional training conferences of the MSM, then heard reports from the regional counselors on the growth, strengths and weaknesses of the campus groups and state movements within their regions.

Among key visitors to the commission were Philippe Maury, general secretary of the World's Student Christian Federation, and Leila Giles of Australia, now a Geneva staff member of the WSCF. Maury preached the Sunday morning sermon for the NCMY group, then interpreted the program and meaning of the WSCF to MSM leaders. Miss Giles challenged the MSM to accept as a special project the financial underwriting of a WSCF study chalet in Australia, tentatively planned for January of 1956.

The student commission voted to give $3,000 to the study chalet through its total Methodist Student Fellowship Fund program.

Perhaps the most involved committee work of the student commission was that done by the ecumenical relations committee. Hour after hour committee members considered MSM and USCC relationships, instructions for Methodist delegates to the USCC assembly, and our financial support of the ecumenical student movement.

The committee on Methodist-related colleges reminded the commission that the church has an obligation to its students wherever they attend school, and that the basic concern of the student organization on campus must be the needs of the student. For the church-related campus there is no single kind of program that will be adequate for the student needs in every situation, the report said, the structure of the student organization (Wesley Fellowship, SCA, etc.) should be adapted to the specific situation. However, any such student organization needs a qualified, well-trained director who is a member of the college staff and who can devote adequate time to the student

When Henry M. Bullock, executive secretary of the Board of Education's editorial division, visited the NCMY, two youth commission leaders sat down with him for a look at youth publications. They are Charles Boyles (left) and Don Day.

organization and its program.

In view of steps being made to integrate fully Negro college students into MSM work, a committee on Negro colleges urged that each state or area MSM be responsible for assisting in the development of religious organizations on Negro college campuses and to strengthen the units that are already organized. One suggestion is that an official representative of the Central Jurisdiction be placed on the inter-conference commission on student work in areas where their work overlaps.

The commission adopted this significant statement: "In the development of interracial work in the MSM, it is to be noted that practically all, if not all, of the state units of the MSM are interracial in practice or have interracial projects. In numerous cases such work has at times been carried forward with great difficulty and encountered no little opposition. With a deep sense of conviction and Christian commitment, as well as courage where that has been required, state MSM councils have gone forward in this practice of Christian brotherhood. All this is to be commended and receives our hearty endorsement. We are grateful to both individuals and groups who have manifested superb Christian witness in this area of concern."

The commission declared that "there is no room in the Church's concept of Christian love and brotherhood for discrimination of any type," then urged national fraternities and sororities to remove from their constitutions clauses enforcing discriminatory practices in local chapters, urging that students use every means to support and implement the May 17 decision of the Supreme Court against segregation in public schools, and urging that students recognize their responsibility for ending discrimination not only in state supported schools, but also on every college campus.

Elected to the council of the NCMY were Erin Turner of Georgia for a one-year term, Bob Snyder of Arizona, Ben Conley of Tennessee, and Mary Lou Ames of Missouri.

Both Groups Meet as One

On Wednesday of the work-packed week, Richard Thompson, NCMY president, rapped the gavel to call to order the general sessions of the National Conference, combining both the MYF and MSM commissions.

The first session together was used for reports on the NCMY office from the projects secretaries, nomination of new projects secretaries (LeRoy King and Eloise Kelly were the persons chosen), and a report from the San Antonio work camp which the NCMY helped sponsor this summer.

On this morning, too, NCMY members bid farewell to Jameson Jones, who retired as projects secretary, completing seven years of work with the NCMY in various capacities.

Again the young leaders worked in and through committees, and a report on committee work constitutes the bulk of the report on accomplishments of the NCMY.

CONCERN **committee:** evaluated the newsmagazine, gave specific suggestions for improving it and some advice

In the lounge of a college dorm or any convenient spot, NCMY committees met to work on various matters. One such committee was Bill Gaiser, new student commission chairman, Liz Walters of Southern California, Aubrey Speer of the Board of Temperance, and Gwen Adams of North Alabama.

to the new editor, stated CONCERN's purposes as (1) to give news of church and world happenings; (2) to offer a source of "food for thought" through features and editorials; (3) to present background on vital issues such as communism and segregation; and (4) to serve as a program aid and guide.

Committee on U.N.-Washington seminars: recommended three seminars to be held this year. One is the annual Christian citizenship seminar for students, a regular project of the MSM and scheduled for February 6-12, 1955; another will be for conference MYF presidents and conference MYF chairmen of citizenship and outreach; and the third will be for other officers of the MYF beyond the local church. The two seminars for youth will be sponsored jointly by the NCMY, the youth department of the Board of Education, the Board of World Peace and other agencies.

Projects committee: considered the value of NCMY projects in the light of relationships of NCMY to various boards and agencies of the church and of our relationship to the ecumenical movement. After much debate and discussion, the NCMY recommended these projects: CONCERN, POWER, the 1955 National Convocation of Methodist Youth, U. N.-Washington seminars for youth, evangelism workcamp, and an interracial workcamp in the San Antonio area. The projects secretaries of the NCMY were instructed to investigate the value of overseas work-camping and to act according to their findings. (A report from the work-campers now in the Philippines was read and discussed.)

Committee on Christian vocations: considered the whole realm of vocational opportunities within the church and suggested vocational emphases in the program of MYF and MSM groups during conferences and assemblies and in the total objectives of the youth and student programs.

Committee on missions: presented to the conference its suggestions on methods of recruitment to missions used by the Methodist Board of Missions, and made suggestions for the short-term mission projects.

During the meeting NCMY delegates met and heard from the executive secretaries of the three divisions of the General Board of Education, John O. Gross, John Q. Schisler and Henry M. Bullock.

The long and short of the NCMY are LeRoy King, a six-feet-eight minister now beginning his first full year as projects secretary, and Marji Simpson of Detroit, barely five feet, a new member of the NCMY council.

The conference voted to hold its next meeting August 14-21 at Purdue University, with the convocation following at Purdue August 22-26, 1955.

Among resolutions adopted by the NCMY were affirmations of the incompatibility of Christianity and war, opposition in principle to any type of universal military training, opposition to compulsory ROTC on any educational level, affirmation of the Methodist stand against all uses of beverage alcohol, affirmation of belief in the principle of academic freedom, disapproval of the existence of the Central Jurisdiction as a barrier to complete Christian fellowship, and a voicing of a firm conviction that the United States should commit itself to continuing international cooperation through the United Nations.

All in all, it was a good meeting. A busy one, with the conference itself and leaders traveling back and forth to Evanston, but a concerned and thinking conference of young leaders of the church's youth and student movements.

why the fuss?

No small number of questions have been directed to the World Council of Churches and its supporters as to the justification for its meeting.

Total budget for the Evanston meeting will probably top $400,000, much of which has been donated by lay groups in the U. S. If the services and gifts of time and effort were added, there is no telling where the expense figure would stop its climb. The Celanese Corporation of America, for instance, donated thousands of yards of material for costuming, curtains, etc. for the meeting. One Chicago dealer donated the use of 20 brand new Ford cars for transporting key leaders.

But questions aren't raised so much on the basis of cost as outcome. "What use is there in meeting when you know you can't agree on many important issues?" say the critics.

The answer to both questions is simple. Certainly the meeting has been expensive, but through the very sharing of need it will repay itself several hundred times in new and more effective cooperation to relieve the world's suffering and to bring men closer together.

But even more important is the certainty that when Christians come together, things happen.

Of course many of the basic divisions in modern day Christianity will not be wiped out over night, but progress is inevitable. It may take 100 years or more to resolve some of the differences, but the fact that there is hope and faith that they can be resolved is important.

Progress has already been made. Hartzell Spence made it clear in his excellent *Saturday Evening Post* article when he

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said recently: ". . . more impressive theologically . . . will be the procession into the stadium (for the Festival of Faith) of delegates, official observers and consultants, many of whom 25 years ago were scarcely on speaking terms.

"Included will be patriarchs of the Orthodox Church from the Middle East, mindful of the schism exactly 900 years ago—in 1054 A.D.—which broke eastern and western Christianity into two noncooperating segments. One of the vice-chairmen of the World Council, Dr. Franklin Clay Fry, will remember that his immediate predecessor as president of the United Lutheran Church opposed the creation of the world body. Bishops of the Protestant Episcopal Church will recall that until 1938 they were not permitted to join even a national council of churches. A delegate from the Reformed Church of South Africa, whose government upholds racial discrimination, will be only a few steps removed from the leader of the Dyak Church of Borneo, whose aboriginal ancestors were head-hunters . . .

"For 70 per cent of the Protestant Orthodox world to sit down and discuss differences is so radical that, after the World Council was formally organized at Amsterdam in 1948, Methodist Bishop Francis J. McConnell commented, 'A century hence, church historians will look back on the organization of the World Council as the most significant event of the twentieth century. It marks the beginning of the end of denominational animosities.' "

With Evanston, Christians are past the beginning and well down the road.

October is soon here. Some of your youth will need new copies of **POWER** (dated October through December) and other youth you know should be introduced to **POWER.** Perhaps you should—

1. Order extra copies of the new issue for your group (10 cents each copy).

2. Place a new standing order (10 or more copies each quarter) for your own group or another one you know.

3. Order copies to send to students and servicemen away from home.

Won't you write us about it today?

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